

### Amendments to the Claims:

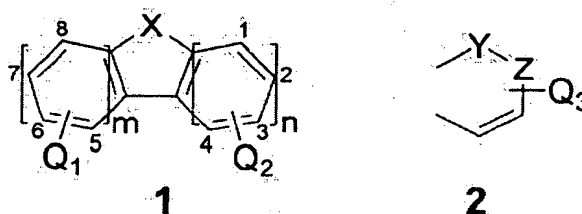
**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:**

### Listing of Claims:

Amend the claim set, replacing all prior versions, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, as detailed in the following complete listing of all claims:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An organic-infrared dye wherein the dye comprises a molecule of the formula 1



wherein m and n are the number of fused 6-membered aromatic rings connected to each side of the central moiety such that the first 6-membered aromatic ring, if present, is connected as shown in **1**; and

wherein Q<sub>1</sub> and Q<sub>2</sub> are one of the same or different fused rings shown as **2** whereby one ring shown as **2** is connected at any of the two adjoining positions C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> at any orientation and another ring shown as **2** is connected to any of the two adjoining positions C<sub>5</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> at any orientation of the outer aromatic rings shown in **1** which may also include one or many substituents individually selected from the group consisting of R<sub>1</sub>, a fused 5-membered ring or a 6-membered aromatic ring optionally substituted with 1 to 4 substituents individually selected from R<sub>2</sub>, and fused polyaromatic rings optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from R<sub>3</sub> wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are individually selected from the group R; and

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of CO, O, and S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, Se, SeO, SeO<sub>2</sub>, Te, TeO, TeO<sub>2</sub>, CR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, NR<sub>4</sub>, SiR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, GeR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, PR<sub>4</sub> where R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub>, which may be the same or different, are selected from the group R; and

wherein Y is individually selected from the group consisting of CO, O, S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, Se, SeO, SeO<sub>2</sub>, Te, TeO, TeO<sub>2</sub>, CR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>6</sub>, SiR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, GeR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, PR<sub>6</sub> and Z is selected from CR<sub>8</sub> or N where R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> which may be the same or different, are selected from the

group R; and

wherein Z is individually selected from the group consisting of CO, O, S, ~~SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, Se, SeO, SeO<sub>2</sub>, Te, TeO, TeO<sub>2</sub>, CR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, NR<sub>9</sub>, SiR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, GeR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, PR<sub>9</sub>~~ and Y is selected from CR<sub>11</sub> or N where R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> which may be the same or different, are selected from the group R; and

Q<sub>3</sub> ~~and Q<sub>4</sub>~~ may be 0, 1 or more than 1 substituents that are individually selected from the group consisting of R<sub>12</sub>, a fused 5-membered ring or a 6-membered aromatic ring optionally substituted with 1 to 4 substituents individually selected from R<sub>13</sub>, and fused polyaromatic rings optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from R<sub>14</sub> wherein R<sub>12</sub>, R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> are individually selected from the group R; and

R is the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a halide atom, a hydroxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted amine group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted thioalkyl group;

wherein the infrared dye absorbs strongly in the near infrared region of the spectrum but poorly in the visible region of the spectrum.

2. (Original) An infrared dye composition comprising a molecule that can be described according to claim 1.
3. (Original) An infrared absorbing dye composition comprising a molecule in accordance to claim 1 wherein bulky substituents are utilized.
4. (Original) An infrared absorbing compound according to claim 1 wherein one or more polar group substituents such as -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -NH<sub>2</sub> and -CN are utilized.
5. (Original) A solvent-based ink composition comprising a molecule that can be described according to claim 1.
6. (Currently Amended) A solvent-based ink according to claim 4 5 which is ink jet printer ink.